

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b). Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a).

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Number 2002/0107011 issued to Mazzarella et al. dated August 8, 2002 (i.e., U. S. Patent Number 6,819,921 issued to Mazzarella et al. on November 16, 2004).

Applicants have avoided this ground of rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants' claim 1, as amended, now recites,

"a portability component that automatically updates one or more provisioning components to port a directory number for a duration of time, wherein a value for the duration of time comprises a date in the future, and wherein the directory number is not limited to wireless directory numbers."

Mazzarella does not teach these limitations. Instead, Mazzarella discloses a technique for a subscriber to initiate the porting of a **wireless** number, i.e., mobile directory number, from one service provider to another service provider. Thus, Mazzarella's technique is limited to porting wireless directory numbers. Also, Mazzarella does not disclose or specify a time interval for the duration of a ported directory number.

By contrast, applicants' claim 1 recites "wherein a value for the duration of time comprises a date in the future, and wherein the directory number is not limited to wireless directory numbers". Thus, Mazzarella is missing the "wherein a value for the duration of time comprises a date in the future" element and "the directory number is not limited to wireless directory numbers" elements, as recited in applicants' claim 1.

Thus, the clear teaching of Mazzarella is that a value for the duration of time does not comprise a date in the future and the directory number is limited to wireless directory numbers.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that Mazzarella does not describe each and every element of claim 1, and therefore claim 1 is not anticipated by Mazzarella. Since claims 2-17 depend from allowable claim 1, these claims are also allowable.

Independent claims 18 and 21 each have limitations similar to that of independent claim 1, which was shown are not taught by Mazzarella. For example, claims 18 and 21 recite, "wherein a value for the duration of time comprises a date in the future, and wherein the directory number is not limited to wireless directory numbers". Mazzarella does not teach these limitations for the above-mentioned reasons. Therefore, claims 18 and 21 are likewise allowable over Mazzarella. Since claims 19-20 depend from claim 18, these dependent claims are also allowable over Mazzarella.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Mazzarella in view of U. S. Patent Number 6,584,193 issued to Petrunka et al. on June 24, 2003.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

This rejection is based on the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) being proper. As that ground of rejection has been overcome, and none of the cited references teach or suggest "wherein a value for the duration of time comprises a date in the future, and wherein the directory number is not limited to wireless directory numbers", as recited in applicants' independent claims 1, 18 and 21, the combination of Mazzarella and Petrunka does not supply these missing elements. Thus, this combination does not make obvious any of applicants' claims, all of which require the aforesaid limitation.

New Claims

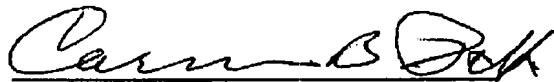
New claims 22-24 have been added. Claims 22-24 provide limitations directed to the value for the duration of time. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's rejections have been overcome and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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